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Rhode Island Library Association Bulletin

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September 1991

Preservation: A National Problem

BY ANN RUSSELL

Interest in preservation is increasing; the time is right to get together and plan cooperatively to address the problem of the deterioration of our research collections. Anyone who works with a historical collection of books or documents is all too familiar with brittle paper problems. When Congress held hearings on the brittle books issue in 1987, it heard testimony from NEH that 76 million titles in American libraries are already brittle. That number is expected to double within the next twenty years. Surveys conducted by one research library after another tend to confirm the figures that 40% of the books in our libraries are already so brittle that they cannot withstand ordinary use.

We are living in the era of bad paper. Since the middle of the nineteenth century, high-speed, high-production industrial methods of paper manufacturing have made paper a cheap and plentiful commodity. Fast food wrappers, direct mail advertising, and tractor-fed computer printouts are the staples of our throw-away society. We can and do waste lots of paper. One of the prices for this, in addition to the ecological price, is that the permanence of paper has been sacrificed. Alum rosin sizing, used to give machine-made paper a hard writing surface, reacts with moisture in the atmosphere to form sulfuric acid, accelerating the rate at which paper becomes brittle.

In the current session of Congress, Senator Claiborne Pell introduced a resolution to encourage both government and private publishers to use permanent paper for all publications and records of enduring value. The resolution is significant because it represents a first effort to attack the brittle paper problem at the source by preventing books on acidic paper from entering library collections. The resolution was passed in both the Senate and the House. The passage of legislation is a landmark in terms of progress toward a national solution to the prospective preservation problem.

The Pell resolution is an important symbolic victory, but it can only encourage the use of permanent paper. There is no enforcement mechanism and compliance is voluntary. Efforts to persuade publishers to use alkaline paper, such as the New York Public Library's Pledge Day, are needed to insure success in this area.

From my point of view, as the director of a regional conservation center, one of the greatest needs is to establish regional conservation centers in the underserved areas of the country and to strengthen those centers that already exist. Hand in hand with the need for shared conservation facilities is the need to train more conservators and preservation administrators who can staff institutional preservation programs as well as regional centers.

Currently there are three schools that provide graduate level training for conservators of fine arts: New York University, SUNY Buffalo, and Winterthur. In the library and archives field, only Columbia University offers advanced training of conservators and preservation administrators. Recently, the trustees of Columbia voted to close down the library school and, along with it, the conservation education programs. Efforts are now being made to find a new institutional base for the conservation education program.

A national preservation strategy must address the needs of materials entering library and archives collection. The reformatting of brittle books has been identified as a priority by the Commission on Preservation and Access. Large amounts of money have been raised for large scale, cooperative microfilming projects where the materials being filmed are of national significance. The records of what has been filmed are entered into a national computerized database.

The goal is to identify and film a core collection of some three million titles in the collections of major research libraries. In order to avoid duplication of effort, each title selected for filming is searched in several databases prior to filming to see if the title has already been filmed or queued for filming by another

institution. The result is a national collection of titles preserved on microfilm to which every library and every researcher with a terminal can have access. Under these conditions, one can truly assert that a book preserved by one library is a book acquired by all libraries.

Another important objective of a national preservation strategy is to meet the need for research and development of new technologies. Currently, single item conservation treatments, developed to preserve artifacts of great value, cannot contend with saving the mass of materials that characterize most library and archives collections. Methods of mass deacidification must be tested and implemented. Technological improvements in the reformatting of information are also being developed, especially a digital scan that is capable of capturing information at a high rate of speed and converting it into any of several formats including microfilm, which would serve as the archival storage master, fiche, or hard copy.

Another component of a national preservation strategy is raising consciousness of preservation issues. The Commission on Preservation and Access, in cooperation with the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities, produced the successful documentary film *Slow Fires*, which was aired several times on National Public Television. It has served to educate audiences that previously were completely ignorant of the brittle book problem. Almost overnight, it introduced the term acid paper into the popular vocabulary.

The ultimate objective of a national preservation strategy is to leverage more funds from federal, state, and private sources to meet preservation needs. Largely as a result of the Commission's lobbying efforts, funding for the NEH Office of Preservation has increased from \$5 million to over \$13 million. But federal funding, by itself, will never be the solution for meeting the local needs of individual institutions. NEH must limit its grants to projects of national and regional significance or demonstration projects that have the potential to serve as models. Recently, NEH has made funds available for cooperative preservation planning at the state level, but applicants are expected to obtain implementation funds through state appropriations or local sources.

It is important to develop strong, state-based preservation programs that can attract funds through the states' appropriations process and administer them through grant programs to meet local preservation needs. By working in cooperation across institutional lines, you will maximize your chances of achieving a political payoff.

Once your preservation needs have been established, a source of funding must be found. Whether your need is for new archival-quality supplies for storage of collections, for new flat files, for a survey of preservation priorities, or for actual treatment of important artifacts, you need money to implement a preservation program and large amounts of it. Funds available for your own institutional budget are never enough to cover all of the needs.

The cardinal rule of fund raising, as every fund raiser will tell you, is that is that you have to ask for it. Do not hide the fact that you have a problem with the deterioration of materials in your collections. Publicize this need using your exhibition facilities to show examples of extreme deterioration as well as some objects that have already received conservation treatment.

It has become almost a knee jerk reaction for institutions to look for federal grants to meet all of their special needs. We tend to overlook the foundations and other private sources. I am not suggesting that you rush out and try to persuade one of the major national foundations to support your local historical society or town clerk's office. They are not likely to set a precedent of funding one organization's needs when they know that this would lead to requests from thousands of similar organizations. What I am suggesting is that if there is a foundation in your own community or a foundation that has expressed past interest in your institution's programs, you might be able to make a strong case for additional funding for preservation.

Persuading a foundation that your project is related to what they are inclined to fund is a matter of packaging. Get to know the lifestyle of the foundation you are approaching. Does it have regularly scheduled meetings? Does it have professional staff with whom you can meet? What similar projects have been funded in the past?

If the foundation has paid professional staff, then your access is usually through the administrator of the foundation. There may be written guidelines and formal procedures for applying. If, on the other hand, it is the sort of foundation where the trustees or the family simply decide who will receive funding, then your approach must be entirely different. Get to know the key decision makers on an individual basis by using your organization's trustees and friends to establish a peer relationship.

Do not overlook the corporations in your community as potential sources of funding. Many organizations have had success in raising funds for preservation from businesses. You do have to keep in mind what the corporation wants from the relationship. Corporations are not in the philanthropy business; rather, they are in the business of making money for their shareholders. If you can convince them that funding your organization is good for their public relations, community relations, or even employee relations, you may succeed in obtaining support.

Once you have had success in convincing a foundation or corporation to fund you, you must pay attention to the cultivation that goes on after you have won a new donor. It is important to make sure that your supporters visit your institution, that they see what you have done with their money, and that they are publicly credited with their contribution.

Ann Russell is Executive Director of the Northeast Document Conservation Center in Andover, MA. Preservation of library materials has been a major concern for Rhode Island libraries in 1991. Russell addressed the Rhode Island Council for the Preservation of Research Resources in

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FALL 1991 H.W. WILSON



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October 1990. She offered to share her thoughts with Bulletin readers.

During the past year, Rhode Island has received funding from NEH to plan a statewide preservation program. Further information on the NEH Preservation Planning grant or a review copy of the draft of the Rhode Island Disaster Preparedness Manual is available from Susan Millard, Project Director, DSLS.

Hotline Hotlanta

BY CAROL DROUGHT

Reports will be out soon in Library Journal and American Libraries about ALA's Annual Conference in Atlanta. You will be able to read about Jesse Jackson's rousing Opening General Session address, the Rally for America's Libraries, and more meetings than you can shake a stick at.

I would like to bring up two issues that generated a lot of debate and discussion in programs, Council, and private conversation. These issues are distance education and the court case involving a suit brought by a homeless man against the Morristown (NJ) Public Library.

Library education and recruitment was one of the major issues of the conference. The closing of the library school at Brigham Young University will bring to 50 the number of accredited programs in the country for graduate education in library science—down from 64 a decade ago. One of the possible solutions to this problem is distance education. Distance education has been with us for a number of years. URI's graduate school offers classes at locations throughout New England. Dan Barron of the University of South Carolina described a program in which television plays a major role: teleclasses at 28 sites offering two-way audio and one-way video, teleconferences, and telecourses consisting of highly edited PBS-quality broadcasts.

One view of distance education sees it as essential to the growth of the profession. The other sees it as reducing library education to "back of matchbook" level. Proponents of distance education view it as essential because of the characteristics of recruits to the profession, typically 35 year old women with children for whom uprooting the family for a year of full time graduate study is not a realistic expectation. Concerns raised on the other side include lack of interaction with faculty and other students and lack of access to a research collection.

The profession will have to face this access issue, access to education for librarianship, at the same time it faces an issue of individual access to information in the case involving the Morristown Public Library.

The library enacted regulations concerning patron conduct in the library. The plaintiff, Mr. Kreimer, claims the result of the enforcement of these regulations was denial of his first amendment right of access to information. The regulations referred to such things as offensive bodily hygiene, staring, and following another person with the intent to annoy that

person. Five of eleven regulations were declared defective by District Judge Sarokin on grounds that they were unreasonable, overbroad, or impermissibly vague. The decision makes clear that the library board has the authority to promulgate rules and regulations on the use of its building, but there is no suggestion of action that would rectify the defects in the regulations which were struck down.

The New Jersey Library Association sees the case as concerning conduct in the library and will file an amicus brief on the side of the library. The Freedom to Read Foundation, an independent group and not part of ALA, is authorized to enter the case in support of Mr. Kreimer. ALA has been asked to support the library, but the recommendation of ALA's lawyer is that ALA not file an amicus brief contending that the Morristown Public Library policies are constitutional. The role the lawyer suggests for ALA is to assist libraries in drafting policies which would protect the rights of all patrons and withstand constitutional challenge.

The issue is further complicated by the fact that Mr. Kreimer is suing for damages and has named individual staff members and local government officials in the suit. I have a copy of Judge Sarokin's decision in the case and would be happy to share it with others.

My suggestion is that librarians read as much as they can about both these issues and discuss them with fellow staff members, in professional groups, and with their library boards.

The Bay Bib: A Social Resource

BY JANICE SIEBURTH

Narragansett Bay covers ten percent of the area of the state of Rhode Island, and its 256 miles of shoreline, 132 square miles of area, and volume of 706 million gallons of water at mid-tide are significant factors for recreation, economics, and transportation in the state. Scientists, planners, government agencies, and others have surveyed the fish in the Bay, studied the pollution of particular coves, and reported on erosion of the shoreline. These publications on the Bay, its surroundings, and environment, are important for management of the state's coastal zone, fisheries, and water quality. A ten year list of these publications can be found in The Bay Bib: The Narragansett Bay Bibliography, 1979-1988 which is an update of The Bay Bib: Rhode Island Marine Bibliography, 1979, now out of print. Compiled by Janice Sieburth and Barbara Dorf with the help of the staff of the Pell Marine Science Library, copies of the 268 page document are available for libraries.

The Pell Library received a grant from the Narragansett Bay Project to update The Bay Bib. All documents published from 1979 through 1988 that could be located were included, and INMAGIC software (INMAGIC, Cambridge, MA) was utilized to create a

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database of records for each item. This software was chosen because it is simple to use and allows an unlimited number of indexing terms to be chosen for the various fields which include authors, subject, geographic location, scientific names, and chemicals. These fields are the indexes in the print publication. Thus, someone studying winter flounder can locate specific studies by searching the common or scientific names of the fish, locations in Narragansett Bay, particular chemicals which may have affected the populations, and other related subjects of interest. Journal articles, technical reports, book chapters, government publications, conference papers, books, and theses are included. Locations in the Pell Library, the University of Rhode Island Library, and the National Sea Grant Depository in the Pell Library Building are listed for most of the 1200 items in the bibliography.

The database created for the print version of The Bay Bib can be searched using SearchMagic, a user friendly system for patrons. Anyone visiting the Pell Library will find that The Bay Bib is one of the several resources available at computer workstations in the lobby. The many terms for places, species, or other subject matter can be used to search for publications, most of which are located in the Library and may be borrowed.

Copies of the printed version of The Bay Bib can be obtained by contacting the staff at the Pell Marine Science Library, University of Rhode Island, Narragansett Bay Campus, Narragansett, RI 02882-1197; 792-6161j. Copies of the database are also available. A file of DOS compatible records is produced which may be examined, printed at another computer, or used with SearchMagic for a searchable database. The database will continue to be updated, and it is hoped that funding will be found for the backfile. We would appreciate being notified of any additional publications which should be included.

Jane Sieburth is Head, Pell Marine Sciences Library.

New Director at DSLS

On July 30, Governor Bruce Sundlun appointed Barbara F. Weaver to the position of Director of the Department of State Library Services, effective August 1. In endorsement for the appointment, Gov. Sundlun said, "In our continuing efforts to streamline government, I am asking Ms. Weaver to look at new and innovative ways to provide library services at the state level.

Weaver formerly served as New Jersey State Librarian and Assistant Commissioner of Education. She was responsible for the administration of a major research library, statewide library development, and the operation of services to the blind and handicapped. Her prior experience includes serving as Regional Administrator of the Central Massachusetts Regional Library system and as Director of the Library Service Center at the Connecticut State Library.

Weaver is currently a member of the ALA Council. She earned an M.L.S. from the University of Rhode Island in 1968 and an Ed. M. from Boston University in 1978.

J O B L I N E

Catalog Librarian—Slavic Languages: competency in Russian; salary: \$25,300-31,600; apply by October 1 with letter, resume, and the names of 3 references to Geneva Ferrell, Department of Human Resources, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912.

B U L L E T I N B O A R D

SECOND ANNUAL SNOWBIRD LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE...

They came from across the entire United States, from England, South Australia, and Canada to participate in the second annual Snowbird Leadership Institute held August 1-6. Thirty-one of the best and brightest young librarians the profession has to offer spent six days at the Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort which is nestled in Utah's Wasatch Mountains. Over the course of the Institute, participants joined in a series of exercises and discussions that encouraged self-exploration and discovery. Snowbird provided the perfect setting for examining personal leadership styles, identifying career goals, developing a higher level of professional and personal confidence, and taking risks.

The impressive line up of mentors included some of the most outstanding library leaders in the profession today. Serving in the role of mentor were Margaret E. Chisholm, University of Washington Graduate School of Library and Information Science; Dennis Day, Director, Salt Lake City Public Library and Director, Snowbird Leadership Institute; E. Les Fowlie, Chief Librarian, Toronto Public Library; F. William Summers, Dean, Florida State University School of Library and Information Studies; Lorraine S. Summers, Assistant State Librarian, State Library of Florida Division of Library Services; Christy Tyson, Southwest Library, Seattle, Washington; Dr. John C. Tyson, State Librarian, Virginia State Library and Archives; and Lynnda M. Wangsgard, Director, Weber County Library, Ogden, Utah.

Plans have already begun for Snowbird Leadership Institute 1992. Library School Deans, State Librarians, and State Library Association Presidents may nominate one candidate to participate in next year's Institute. The nominee must have recently earned a Masters of Library Science degree and must have been employed in the library field for at least one year but, in general, not more than three years. *For further information, contact Nancy Tessman, Salt Lake City Public Library, 209 East Fifth South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111, 801-524-8200.*

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A BAY MAKES, a collaborative effort of the Rhode Island Historical Society, DSLS, and libraries in the Bay region, sets sail with the official opening of the project Thursday, September 26, 7:30 pm at the Aldrich House, 110 Benevolent Street in Providence. John Stilgoe, a landscape historian at Harvard University, will present the opening address, "Narragansett Bay: A Particular Landscape." The evening also marks the opening of the exhibit, "Narragansett Bay: Charting Its Course." Guest Curator, Susan Danforth, has gathered graphic and

cartographic images and other artifacts, many from libraries and archives in the Bay region, tracing the history of Narragansett Bay over the past 400 years.

Beginning in October, libraries throughout the Bay region will host series covering a wide variety of topics. Albert T. Klyberg, Director of the Historical Society, will introduce the project and provide an historical overview in lectures at the Pawtucket and Fall River Public Libraries. Jamestown and Warwick will present "The First Visitors;" Barrington and Cranston, "Waterways as Inspiration;" Cross Mills and Newport, "Storms, Shipwrecks, and Rescues;" North Kingstown, Middletown, Portsmouth, and Mt. Pleasant, "Fishing: Narragansett Bay's Oldest Profession;" and South Kingstown, Bristol, Warren, and South Providence, "All in a Bay's Work." A concert by the Wickford Express, "Down Narragansett Bay," at the East Providence Public Library on Sunday, November 17 at 3 pm will conclude the fall series.

Other programs associated with the project include "Rhode Island Libraries Day" at the Narragansett Bay: Charting Its Course" exhibit on Sunday, October 6 from 3 to 5 pm; and the Northern Library System will be co-sponsoring a boat ride, "North on Narragansett Bay," on Saturday, October 19 from 11 to 3 pm leaving from India Point Park.

For more information and a Calendar of Events, contact Deborah B. Brennan, 331-8575, or Peggy Shea, DSLS, 277-2726. What A Difference a Bay Makes is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities.

The Providence Public Library now has access to the vast holdings of the Library of Congress through a nationwide program called LC DIRECT.

This program allows each state library agency to designate one library to act as access point, and in Rhode Island, DSLS has designated PPL as the LC DIRECT site because of its role as Reference Resource Center to the state. Files in the Library of

Congress Information System (LOCIS) belong to one of two groups: SCORPIO (Subject-Content-Oriented Retriever for Processing Information Online) and MUMS (Multiple Use MARC System).

Reference Services librarians will access these files for any appropriate question as we now use our other online services. The system is fairly user friendly, which will facilitate staff training. In addition to well-constructed search aids, each library in the program has a liaison at the Library of Congress for help with searching problems.

For a list of available files and further information, contact Susan Waddington, Principal Reference Librarian, Providence Public Library, 455-8036.

The New England Foundation for the Humanities has received federal funding totalling \$155,000 to create two new public history projects: "The Civil War: A Second Look" and "Encompassing Columbus: Five Italian Lives." Both projects will present public programs

in libraries, museums, and other sites across New England beginning this fall. Based on a highly successful model for public programming, these series are an opportunity for out-of-school adults to discuss books and ideas with leading New England history scholars. To book programs or for further information on these projects, contact JoAnna Baldwin Mallory at the New England Foundation for the Humanities, 617-482-8030.

The Moosup Valley Road Race and Harvest Party, sponsored by the Tyler Free Library, is being held on October 5th. Besides the 5-mile race, a 1-mile Fun Run and a 4-mile Walk Around are also scheduled. All entrants receive a gorgeous cow T-shirt. For information or entry forms, write the Tyler Free Library, Moosup Valley Road, Foster, RI 02825 or call the library at 397-7930.

A specially designed handicapped access ramp was dedicated at the Redwood Library on Sunday, August 25, 1991 to mark the opening of the Library's annual Garden Party.

Made possible by a grant of \$15,000 from the Prince Charitable Trusts, the ramp was designed by architect William L. Burgin to harmonize with the architecture of the Redwood. It is located at the Redwood Street entrance.

MORE MARINE INFORMATION...

"How to Find Marine Information in Public and School Libraries: A Rhode Island Sea Grant Report" has recently been published. Eight steps are listed which guide the selection of a topic, finding background information, developing a search strategy, and using library resources. Copies of the 8 page brochure are available from the Rhode Island Sea Grant Information Office, University of Rhode Island Bay Campus, Narragansett, RI 02882-1197. Order P1205.

We regret having misspelled the names of Joey Rodger and new member John Struzik.

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 16: RILA Intellectual Freedom Committee, Cranston7 Library, 3:30 pm.

SEPTEMBER 28—OCTOBER 5: Banned Books Week

SEPTEMBER 29—OCTOBER 1: NEA Annual Conference, Tara Hyannis Hotel, Hyannis, MA.

NOVEMBER 4: RILA Fall Conference, Butler Hospital

PEOPLE

ROSE ELLEN REYNOLDS and ROBERT SCHNARE, Director of the U.S. Naval War College Library, have been named Rhode Island's lay and professional delegates respectively to the White House Conference on Library and Information Services Task Force (WHCLIST).

VALERIE MAHER is the new Media Service/Reference Librarian at Roger Williams College Library.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

The recent visit of hurricane Bob to our area should once again remind us of the potential fragility of much of what we have come to take for granted. Isolated disasters such as a building fire, a water main break, or even a nocturnal intrusion of burglars are part of the generally accepted risks of life, especially in urban areas. Most of us take what we consider to be proper precautions, which usually range from correcting sloppy habits to enacting active security measures. Failing all else, there is always the route of purchasing ample, albeit expensive insurance.

Every so often, sometimes decades apart, we are shocked to learn just what a precarious position we are in when it comes to the forces of nature. Bob was the first serious hurricane around here in a long, long time. The significance of this particular example of the fury of nature is that it was a potential disaster for everyone, not just the isolated building or street. We are all vulnerable to some extent. I lost a tree but fortunately not my electricity; many others, however, were not nearly as lucky. Those of us charged with the responsibility of managing an institution such as a library, might, under these circumstances, feel torn between personal and professional duties. Homes had to be protected as well as libraries.

All of which should poignantly remind librarians of the absolute need for some kind of disaster plan that anticipates a wide range of potential disasters. While destructive hurricanes and intense winter storms are relatively rare here, they happen nevertheless. We were fortunate this time around in having adequate warning. We cannot always depend, however, on the technology of prediction, and even less should we rely on luck.

The First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

The RILA BULLETIN is published nine times per year by the Rhode Island Library Association. Managing Editor: John Fay, State Library, State House, Providence, RI 02903 (277-2473); Feature Co-Editors: Norman Desmaris, Providence College, Phillips Memorial Library, Providence, RI 02918 (865-2241); Wendy Knickerbocker, James P. Adams Library, Rhode Island College, Providence, RI 02918 (456-9605); News Editor: Frank Iacono, DSLS, 300 Richmond Street, Providence, RI 02903-4222 (277-2676); Jobline: Pam Stoddard, Government Documents Department, URI Library, Kingston, RI 02881 (792-2606); Advertising Manager: Elizabeth Johnson, Cranston Public Library, 140 Sockanosset Cross Road, Cranston, RI 02920 (943-9080); Subscriptions Manager: John Bucci, William Hall Library, 1825 Broad Street, Cranston, RI 02905 (781-2450). A current list of RILA Executive Board members and Committee Chairs is available in Volume 64, No. 1-2. Subscriptions: free to members; \$15/year in U.S.; \$20/year foreign. Deadlines: 1st of the month for features and 15th of the month for everything else. Advertising: \$130 full page; \$65 half page; \$40 quarter page; \$15 business card size. Change of address: members contact the Membership Committee Chair, Donna Roberts, 1503 Middle Road, East Greenwich, RI 02818 (885-3174). Subscription correspondence: contact Subscriptions Manager. For further information, contact the appropriate Editor. Technical Production: Verbatim, Inc., 769B Hope Street, Providence, RI 02906. Printing by Lewis Graphics, 1655 Elmwood Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920 (941-4444). LC 57-26438.

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